

V. *Descriptions of some new Species of Birds belonging chiefly to the rare Genera Phytotoma, Gmel., Indicator, Vieill., and Cursorius, Latham. By Mr. Benjamin Leadbeater, F.L.S. Communicated by the Zoological Club of the Linnean Society.*

Read December 20, 1825.

AMONG the numerous accessions which have taken place to our stock of Ornithology within the last few years, a few species belonging to some of the rarer genera have fallen into my hands, the descriptions of which may not prove unacceptable to this Society. Next to the interest which is excited by the discovery of species that exhibit any novel modification of form, may be considered that which arises from the accession of species to groups either little known, or which are of rare occurrence. The following birds are for the most part of this latter description. They belong to genera, of which the species have hitherto not only been much limited in number, but which are so rare as to have come but seldom under the inspection of ornithologists.

Ordo. INSESSORES. *Vigors.*

Tribus. CONIROSTRES. *Cuv.*

Fam. LOXIADÆ. *Vigors.*

Genus. PHYTOTOMA. *Gmel.*

FERREO-ROSTRE. *P. brunneum, capite, gula, caudaque supra rufis; rostro nigro, crassissimo.*

Rostrum

Rostrum subbreve, crassissimum, basi latissimum, *rostri Loxiadarum* robur crassitudinemque in extremum ferens: irregulariter serratum; *mandibulâ* superiore dente conspicuâ prope basin armatâ; *tomiis* angulum prope basin formantibus. *Alæ* subbreves, rotundatæ, brunneæ; *remigibus* suprâ fusco-brunneis, subtùs fuscis; *remige* secundâ primâ paulò longiori, tertiâ quartâ quintâ sextâque ferè æqualibus longissimis, septimâ octavâ nonâ decimâque gradatim brevescentibus. *Cauda* mediocris, rotundata; *rectricibus* duabus mediis suprâ rufis, cæterùm pogoniis externis rufis, internis fuscis, omnibus subtùs fuscis. *Pedes* mediocres, fusco-brunnei, tetradactyli; *acrotarsiis* scutellatis, *paratarsiis* integris; *digitis* subgracilibus; exterioribus usque ad articulum primum medio connexo; medio elongato, duobus externis subbrevis, æqualibus; *halluce* subforti, subelongato, *ungue* sublongo, subfalcato; *unguibus* omnibus compressis.

Longitudo corporis, $5\frac{7}{10}$; *alæ* a carpo ad remigem quartam, $2\frac{4}{5}$; *tarsi*, $\frac{4}{5}$; *rostri* ad frontem, $\frac{3}{5}$, ad rictum, $\frac{4}{5}$; altitudo *rostri* a basi gnathidiorum ad basin culminis $\frac{4}{5}$; latitudo inter gnathidia, $\frac{7}{10}$.

I have referred this bird to the genus *Phytotoma* of Gmelin, with the general characters of which it sufficiently accords. The bill, however, is of such extraordinary dimensions, and the bird exhibits in other respects such peculiar characters, that I make no doubt it will be found, when closely compared with the birds of that genus, to form a distinct group from them. Hitherto I have had no opportunity of making such a comparison, having never seen a specimen of the true *Phytotoma*; and I do not feel myself authorized to form my bird into a new genus without a more accurate knowledge of that group, with which

which it is certainly closely allied, than the superficial characters already given of it afford me. I have, however, subjoined a detailed account of the chief characters of the bird in the above description, in order that those ornithologists, who may have the good fortune of being able to compare the species of the true *Phytotoma* with it, may ascertain how far the birds agree. I have to add, when alluding to the extraordinary dimensions of the bill of the species, that the jaw-bones extend in width even further than the beak itself; the space between them being $\frac{9}{10}$ ths of an inch, while that between the gnathidia of the lower mandible is but $\frac{7}{10}$ ths.

The greatest breadth of the skull above is $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch.

Trib. DENTIROSTRES. *Cuv.*

Fam. MERULIDÆ. *Vigors.*

Gen. MYIOTHERA. *Ill.*

2. YARRELLII. *M. suprâ brunnea; strigâ superciliari, thorace, crisso, guttisque alarum pallidè fulvis, abdomine albo; strigâ per oculos tectricibusque nigris.*

Caput saturatiùs brunneum; cauda rufescenti-brunnea. Rostrum suprâ brunneum, subtùs fulvum; pedes fulvi.

Longitudo corporis, $5\frac{1}{2}$; rostri, $\frac{3}{8}$; alæ a carpo ad remigem tertiam, $2\frac{3}{5}$; caudæ, $2\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi, $1\frac{1}{10}$.

I have dedicated this beautiful species to my friend Wm. Yarrell, Esq., whose services as an ornithologist entitle him to this public mark of approbation, and whose long continued friendship demands from me this private tribute of esteem.

Fam.

Fam. SYLVIADÆ. Vigors.

Gen. TYRANNULUS. Vieill.

3. VIEILLOTI. *T. suprâ viridi-olivaceus, corpore subtùs strigâque superciliari utrinque flavis; capite cristato, alis, caudâ, maculâque utrinque abdominali atris; regione auriculari atrocæruleâ; capite summo crissoque roseis; mento strigâque alarum albis.*

Pteromata fulva. Tectrices inferiores albæ, nigro notatæ. Rectrices externæ apice albo. Rostrum pedesque nigri.

Longitudo corporis, 4; rostri, $\frac{1}{2}$; alæ a carpo ad remigem tertiam, $1\frac{3}{4}$; caudæ, $1\frac{9}{16}$; tarsi, $\frac{3}{4}$.

I have named this little Wren, which comes from Chili, after M. Vieillot, who first characterized the American species, without the feathers which cover the nostrils, as distinct from the European *Regulus*.

Fam. PIPRIDÆ. Vigors.

Gen. PARDALOTUS. Vieill.

4. AFRICANUS. *P. suprâ virescenti-olivaceus, subtùs flavescenti-albidus; alis caudâque nigris, illis albo guttatis, hâc albo terminatâ.*

Capitis nuchæque plumæ fusco ad apicem marginatæ, gula pectorisque leviter undulatæ. Ptila guttis rotundis albis frequentibus notata, pteromata guttis similibus terminata.

Genæ crissumque flavæ. Tectrices inferiores albidæ. Rostrum nigro-brunneum; pedes pallidi.

Longitudo corporis, $4\frac{1}{4}$; rostri, $\frac{1}{4}$; alæ a carpo ad remigem secundam, $2\frac{3}{8}$; caudæ, $1\frac{5}{8}$; tarsi $\frac{9}{16}$.

This little bird, which has all the general characters of the Australian genus *Pardalotus*, as well as the usual colouring and markings, was found far in the interior of Africa. It is the only

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only species of the genus yet discovered, that does not belong to New Holland.

Trib. SCANSORES. *Auct.*

Fam. CUCULIDÆ. *Leach.*

Gen. INDICATOR. *Vieillot.*

The group of *Honeyguides*, the first account of the interesting manners of which was given by Dr. Sparmann, was separated from the Linnæan genus *Cuculus*, where it was originally placed by systematic writers, by M. Le Vaillant* under the name of *Indicateurs*; and was afterwards formed into a genus by M. Vieillot, under the scientific name of *Indicator*. Some confusion exists respecting the species already described of this genus. M. Le Vaillant has described and figured two species, which he calls “*le Grand Indicateur*” and “*le Petit Indicateur*.” Dr. Shaw refers to three species, which he denominates *I. Sparmanni* (*Cuculus Indicator* Mill.), the bird originally discovered by Dr. Sparmann; *I. major*; and *I. minor*; the two last being the species figured by M. Le Vaillant. M. Temminck, however, includes but two species in the genus†, the original *Cuculus Indicator* Mill. (*I. Sparmanni* Shaw), and the *Petit Indicateur* of M. Le Vaillant (*I. minor* Shaw); apparently concluding that the former bird and the *Grand Indicateur* of M. Le Vaillant (*I. major* Shaw) are the same species.

These birds are of rare occurrence, and I have had no opportunity of ascertaining this point; but I have the good fortune to be able to add the descriptions of two new species, which have been sent to me from the interior of Africa, and which differ totally from all the descriptions and figures of those species already published. To these I shall add the detailed de-

* *Ois. d’Afrique.*

† *Analyse du Syst. gen. d’Ornith.* p. 73.—1825.—He has subsequently added a third species in his *Planches Coloriées*, No. 367.—Nov. 29, 1828.

scription of a species I have received from the Cape of Good Hope. This bird, although it does not exactly accord with the description of the bird originally brought from the same place by Dr. Sparmann, may yet be the female, or a variety of that species; the descriptions of it being very vague and confused, and the identity of the species being much in doubt.

5. LE VAILLANTII. *I. olivaceo-brunneus, subtus albidus, gula pectoreque flavo-variegatis; rectricibus duabus mediis fusco-brunneis, cæteris albis fusco-brunneo notatis.*

Tectrices superiores flavo leviter marginatæ, inferiores albidæ. Remiges olivaceo-brunnæ margine interno pallidiore, subtus fuscæ internè albido marginatæ. Rectrices prima et secunda albæ apice brunneo, tertia alba apice basique brunneis, quarta et quinta brunneæ margine interno albo, duæ mediæ brunneæ. Rostrum obscure brunneum, subbreve, gonyde subfortiter angulatâ. Pedes nigri, unguibus pallidioribus.

Longitudo corporis, $7\frac{1}{4}$; alæ a carpo ad remigem tertiam, $4\frac{1}{10}$; caudæ $3\frac{1}{10}$; rostri ad rictum $\frac{1}{2}$, ad frontem $\frac{1}{2}$; tarsi $\frac{1}{2}$.

This bird has at first sight some appearance of the *I. albicollis** of M. Temminck; and on a superficial examination might be pronounced either the female or the young male of that species. But the bill will be found to be decidedly distinct; being shorter and stronger, and having a much more acutely angulated *gonys* than the bill of that bird.

I. Le Vaillantii also is of less dimensions than the former bird; and the disposition of the colours, as may be seen by the above descriptions, is different in both. I have named the spe-

* The male and female of this species had been originally described and named in this paper; but as the species has been figured by M. Temminck subsequently to the reading of the paper, I adopt his name.—Nov. 29, 1828.

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cies in honour of M. Le Vaillant, who first pointed out the characteristic peculiarities of this group, and whose services in general to science have been of the highest importance.

6. BUPHAGOIDES. *I. olivaceo-fuscus*, abdomine albido; alis dorsoque infimo flavo variegatis; rectricibus quatuor mediis olivaceo-brunneis; rostro brevi, crasso.

Tectrices superiores, primariae externè flavæ, internè albido marginatæ, secundariae utrinque flavo marginatæ; inferiores albidæ. *Remiges* suprâ, externâ exceptâ, externè flavo internè albido marginatæ; subtùs fuscæ, internè albido marginatæ. *Rectrices* tres externæ albæ, apice brunneo, quarta alba apice basique brunneis, quatuor mediæ brunneæ. *Rostrum* nigrum, mandibulâ inferiori basi albidâ, gonyde grandi.

Longitudo corporis, 6; alæ a carpo ad remigem tertiam $3\frac{7}{10}$; caudæ $2\frac{1}{2}$; rostri ad frontem $\frac{2}{6}$, ad rictum $\frac{1}{2}\frac{1}{6}$; tarsi $\frac{3}{6}$.

The bill of this species, although agreeing in general characters with those of the rest of the group, exhibits a decided difference from all, in its shortness and thickness. In this respect it has nearly the appearance of the *Beefeater's* bill, partially agreeing in the strong and angulated form so conspicuous in that genus.

This analogical resemblance has induced me to confer on the species the name of *Buphagoides*.

7. SPARMANNI? *I. olivaceo-brunneus*, gulâ pectoreque albido maculatis; abdomine crissoque albidis, brunneo lineatis, rectricibus externis albis, apice brunneis.

Caput parçè albido striatum. *Alarum* plumæ flavescenti marginatæ; *femorales* crissique in medio brunneo striatæ. *Remiges* inferiores fuscæ. *Pteromata* alba: *ptila* alba brunneo-

variegata. *Rectrices* quatuor mediæ brunneæ, cæteræ albæ apice brunneo. *Rostrum* nigrum, *mandibulâ* inferiore albescente. *Pedes* nigri.

Longitudo corporis, $7\frac{3}{10}$; *alæ* a carpo ad remigem tertiam $4\frac{1}{2}$; *caudæ* $2\frac{2}{10}$; *rostri* ad pontem $\frac{1}{2}$, ad rictum $7\frac{1}{10}$; *tarsi* $\frac{1}{2}\frac{3}{8}$.

Fam. RAMPHASTIDÆ. Vigors.

Gen. MOMOTUS. Lath.

8. PLATYRHYNCHUS. *M. flavescenti-viridis*, capite collo pectoreque rufo-castaneis; strigâ per oculos, notisque thoracicis nigris; rostro latissimo.

Rostrum pedesque nigri. *Remiges* pogonio externo viridi, interno rhachibusque fuscis. *Tectrices* inferiores virides. *Rectrices* suprâ virides, rhachibus apiceque atris; subtùs fuscæ.

Longitudo corporis ab apice rostri ad apicem caudæ, $14\frac{5}{8}$ unc.; *rostri* ad frontem $1\frac{5}{8}$, ad rictum 2; *alæ* a carpo ad apicem remigis quartæ $5\frac{1}{8}$; *caudæ* $8\frac{1}{4}$; *tarsi* $\frac{3}{4}$.

The distinguishing character of this bird is its bill, which is flat and broad, unlike the compressed bill of the other three species. The black *stria* on the side of the head extends from the *rictus* of the bill through the eyes, and covers the ears; those on the throat are formed by detached black feathers, not exceeding in this specimen seven in number. The webs of the central tail-feathers are bare for about an inch near the *apex*, as is usual in this genus.

This bird was found in Brazil.

Ord. GRALLATORES. Illiger.

Fam. CHARADRIADÆ. Leach.

Gen. CURSORIUS. Latham.

9. GRALLATOR. *C. ochraceus*, capite dorsoque nigro brunneoque

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que variegatis ; subtùs parcè nigro lineatus ; fasciis duabus parallelis pectoralibus nigris.

Rostrum nigrescens. Pedes pallidi.

Longitudo corporis, $7\frac{3}{5}$; rostri $\frac{3}{5}$; tarsi 2.

The extraordinary length of the *tarsi* of this bird brings the group to which it belongs into near contact with the long-legged genera of *Himantopus* Cuv. and *Ædicnemus* Cuv., and adds to the number of those groups of the family of *Charadriadæ* which are immediately allied to the *Gruidæ* of the same order. The stilt-like appearance of the bird has suggested the specific name which I have given it.